

SERVING THE AFRICAN DIASPORA SINCE 1972

SEPT/OCT 09

# THE ONLYX INFORMER



GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS  
TRANSFER STUDENT TRAVELS  
A GLIMPSE OF SPAIN  
Q & A WITH BOB JOSE

# THE ONYX INFORMER

SEPT/OCT 09

exists to be a voice for the people of the African Diaspora and the greater Boston community in which we reside. The ONYX embraces the unity and values of diversity in both the content of our publication and in the membership of our organization.

## Contents Sept/Oct 2009

### EDITORIAL

(3) Letter from the Editor

### EDUTAINMENT

(6) "Act Like a Lady. Think Like a Man."

### FEATURES

(8) Global Competitiveness

(15) Transfer Student Travels

### OUT AND ABOUT

(12) A Glimpse from Spain

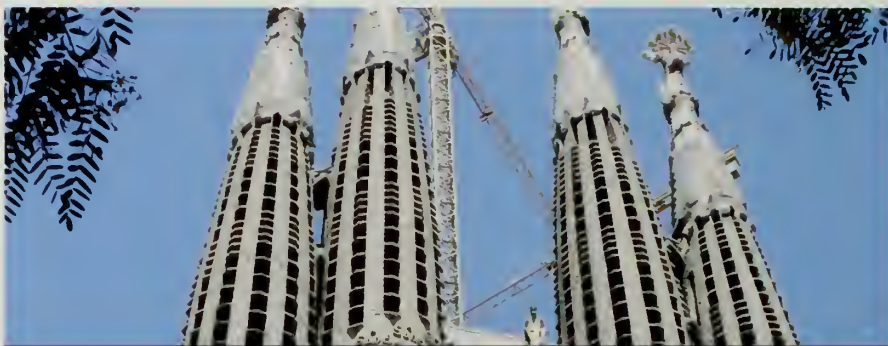
### SPOTLIGHT

(7) Bob Jose

### TALK BACK

(14) Mr. & Ms. Nubian

(17) SoulSpeech



COVER PHOTO BY JASMINE WOODS

### Staff

Editor-In-Chief Keir Bristol

Business Manager  
Jennifer Barris

Office Manager  
Sharlene Juste

Copy Editor  
Jordan Martins

Designer and Layout Editor  
Jasmine Woods

Soul Speech Editor  
Yvonne Wilkins



*Making positive impressions.*

Printed by Smith Print  
Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061  
[www.smithprint.com](http://www.smithprint.com)

The opinions and feelings expressed in The ONYX INFORMER are not necessarily those of The ONYX staff or the Northeastern Administration. The ONYX is a publication run by undergraduate students who oversee all aspects of operations involving the publication. © 2009 THE ONYX INFORMER. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission from The ONYX INFORMER.

# Letter from the Editor

*Earlier this year, on June 25, Michael Jackson passed away. It was a sad day not only for the music world, but especially for people of color. Despite all the controversy he stirred with his constantly changing appearance – most notably his skin color – his children, his health, child abuse allegations and more, the bottom line is that Jackson gave black people a beat to step to. It is ironic that the most controversial topic concerning Jackson was the changing of his skin from black to white, because the spectrum he covered was just as wide, if not wider. He was one of the greatest philanthropists and performers of all time. Jackson gave us a voice- very few black people's music videos were shown on MTV before the "Billie Jean" video in 1983, and it pushed Thriller to become the best-selling album of all time.*

*Here at the Onyx, our job is similar to Jackson's, in that our job is to give the students of color here at Northeastern a voice. When the Onyx Informer printed their first issue on November 3, 1972, the founders were making a statement. They could have just as easily joined the Northeastern News, but that publication already had their own voice. It catered most of the student body, but not all of it. The Onyx helped close the gap.*

*The Onyx is back for another academic year, and I couldn't be more excited. To all of the new freshmen, and all of the returning sophomores, middlers, juniors and seniors, I welcome you. As you're making new friends, going to classes, exploring the T, or discovering your new favourite pizzeria, please bear in mind that we can't give you a voice without your feedback and involvement. I invite you to help us close the gap, and with your help, just as Jackson's music and legacy will live on, we can live on as well.*

*Keir Bristol*

Editor-In-Chief  
onyxeditorinchief@gmail



# Become a part of the Onyx Team!

The *Onyx* is looking for students to assist our copy editor and also Graphic Design students to join our design team.

## Copy Editing Team:

*The copy editing team edit submissions that come into the Onyx Informer. Prior experience is a plus, but not required.*

Job description includes, but is not limited to:

- Responsible for maintaining and distributing the style manual and guidelines for writers.
- Responsible for proofreading and editing all written articles.
- Responsible for organizing and/or developing workshops to aid writers in bettering their pieces.

## Design Team:

*The design team produces the layout and designs for the magazine. Prior experience with InDesign, Photoshop, and other applicable design programs is a plus, but not required.*

Job description includes, but is not limited to:

- Responsible for working with Photo Editor on the acquisition of all photographs.
- Responsible for designing flyers for *Onyx* announcements and/or events sponsored by the *Onyx* and visual representation of the *Onyx* logo.

**Contact: [onyxeditorinchief@gmail.com](mailto:onyxeditorinchief@gmail.com)**

# ONYX

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?**

Meetings are Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in 344 CSC

**COME AND BE A PART OF HISTORY!**

## Attention Student Groups:

Want your event in the Onyx? Please send event info to: [onyxphotos@gmail.com](mailto:onyxphotos@gmail.com). Type: "Out & About" in the subject line. We are now accepting events for Fall 2009.

## Comments, suggestions?

If you have any comments, critiques, topic ideas or suggestions please let us know! We want to hear from you.

Please email us at [onyxsubmission@gmail.com](mailto:onyxsubmission@gmail.com) or [onyxinformer@gmail.com](mailto:onyxinformer@gmail.com).

## Attention Poets, Artists, and Literary Writers:

Want to get published? Send your pieces to [onyxsubmission@gmail.com](mailto:onyxsubmission@gmail.com). Type "SoulSpeech submission" in the subject line. We are now accepting pieces for our Fall 2009.

## Need Advice?

Direct your questions to our advice columnists Mr. and Ms. Nubian. Send questions about life, relationships, school, and everything in between to:

Mr. Nubian: [onyxmr.nubian@gmail.com](mailto:onyxmr.nubian@gmail.com)

Ms. Nubian: [onyxms.nubian@gmail.com](mailto:onyxms.nubian@gmail.com)

## In Our Next Issue:

Multiculturalism

## Coming Soon:

The Onyx Website  
SoulSpeech Presents...

## Updates:

The *Onyx* is now located in 232 CSC.

We are accepting submissions for the November/December issue.

## Visit Us Online

[www.onyx.neu.edu](http://www.onyx.neu.edu)

Search Facebook  
"Onyx Informer"

## BOOK REVIEW

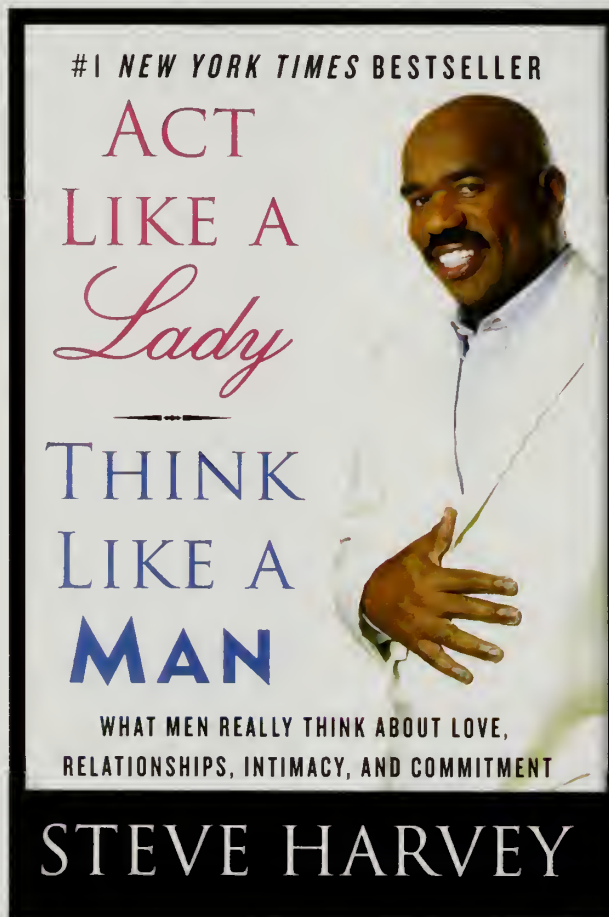
### “Act Like a Lady. Think Like a Man.” - Steve Harvey

BY JENNIFER BARRIS

Steve Harvey’s “Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man” aims to help the women of today, and even some from yesterday, adopt an understanding of why men do what they do in relationships. Harvey attempts to explain what is most important to men and what makes men feel like men when with a woman. In general, Harvey tries to dismantle some of the things women have been taught, build up some new guidelines that help in relationships today, compare the old school traditions with his new advice and see how both fair out in different situations.

Some may know Steve Harvey from the television series “The Steve Harvey Show” or from his appearance in “The Kings of Comedy.” Many may even recognize him from his roles in movies like “The Johnson Family Vacation” and “Love Don’t Cost a Thing.” His most recent work, however, is his radio talk show “The Steve Harvey Morning Show.” On the show, there is a segment called “Ask Steve” during which women ask Harvey about topics as broad as finding true love to topics as specific as problems in the bedroom. Harvey admits he initially used the segment as material for his stand-up acts, but after a while he realized that women have serious, non-comical problems with men in their romantic relationships.

I have to be honest, before reading this book; I didn’t exactly view Steve Harvey as the type of man who gives sound relationship advice, to put it lightly. However, I was pleasantly surprised. This book does not feed into negative stereotypes and isn’t filled



cover-to-cover with a bunch of distasteful jokes. Harvey actually gives women a look into the, sometimes mysterious, minds of men.

His book is divided into three sections and then further divided into chapters within each section. Sections 1, 2 and 3 are entitled “The Mindset of a Man,” “Why Men Do What They Do,” and “The Playbook: How to Win The Game,” respectively. In my opinion, there are a few key chapters that provide the “meat and potatoes.” Everything else addresses more specific situations and problems that females might encounter with a man, but still apply to most women.

I believe Harvey has a knowledgeable

and unique perspective on relationships which may not be easy to find elsewhere. You might ask, “How do you figure?” Well, in his book he reveals a good amount of his personal experience with women. For example, he tells the reader that he is currently in his second marriage, which implies that some of his knowledge was gained through trial and error. Not to mention his age. Being 52, Harvey has been able to experience the traditions taught before we, as a generation, were even thought of. He knows how our parents were raised and taught to behave while dating. But he also has a fresh point of view. Being in show business requires wisdom about the way society works nowadays.

This book is centered on the assumption that the reader does not understand men and is most likely single. Nevertheless, it is definitely worth reading if you are

off the market or think you know all about men. Although I am happily in a relationship, there were many an “Oh so that’s why he does that” moments for me when I read this book. It clarified some issues that, with an untrained eye, would otherwise be written off as hang-ups, instead of simply being seen as functions of a man by nature. Harvey points out one of the things I think women forget most when they are with men. He says “[Men] have to feel like somebody’s got our back – like we’re the king, even if we’re not... Trust me, the more you make us feel like we’re special, the more we’ll give in return.”



## Q & A With Bob Jose

BY JASMINE WOODS

**Onyx:** How did you get into this type of work, coming from a major in economics?

**Bob José:** “I was writing my master’s thesis on international business in Nigeria, and I got a little carried away, and I recognized that I needed more time, but I didn’t have anywhere to live, and I didn’t have any money. There was a graduate assistantship in residence life. I applied for it and I got it, and I was a graduate resident director, and I did that for one year. I went to follow my business dream, and being in business didn’t work out. I saw a job opening as a resident director at SUNY Buffalo. I applied for it, and I got it. It kinda went from there; I was a resident director. I have been an assistant director of residence life, an associate director of residence life, a director of residence life, and now I am a dean.”

**O:** How did you end up at Northeastern from Buffalo?

**B:** “I was at Bentley College before here. I was a director of Residence Life, and I was at Boston College for 13 years as their associate director before that. Buffalo was 21 years ago.”

**O:** What are the key components of what you do here at Northeastern?

**B:** “I direct the Residential Life program, but I also now am responsible for the supervision of off-campus student services, the African-American Institute, the Latino Cultural Center, and the Asian American Center. My main function is the development of community here at Northeastern. When you wash it all down to its lowest common denominator, that’s what my job is.”

**O:** What’s your favorite part of your job?

**B:** “As part of being a person who is responsible for community building here, an aspect of my job is to ensure that students have a great quality of life outside of the classroom. The part of my job that I like the most is just talking to students and hearing about their experiences: where they come from, why they came here, what they’d like to see better, what they like about Northeastern, what they’d like to change about it. That’s the most exciting part of my job.”

**O:** What’s the most challenging part?

**B:** “Because I have all these hats, I have a lot of responsibility, a lot of things to do, a lot of paper that fills up my desk. But to push it away so that I can talk to somebody, making sure that I remember really what I am here for. Yes, I have to deal with the “administrivia,” as I call it, but ultimately that’s not why I’m here. I’m here to improve a student’s quality of life, and I can’t do that while I’m playing with paper, but the paper exists, and it has to be dealt with. So, what that means is, I usually stay later.”

**O:** How does having a student here affect your work?

**B:** “As an administrator on campus who has a child here, I look at other people’s kids like my own. I want them to have the same experiences she does. It affects me in the sense that I want everybody to have the experience that I want my child to have.”

**O:** Do you have any other career goals?

**B:** “I have a great interest in ministry. One of these days, I want to be able to go and visit people in their homes. I want to be able to check in on those who are sick and shut in. I want to be able to conduct Bible study in people’s homes and just do that all day. That’s what I do when I’m not doing this. That’s what I really love to do, and I see a day when that is going to happen. I don’t know if it’s today. I don’t know if it’s tomorrow, or next week or next month, but at some point I really want that to be a part of what I do.

I want to be in a position to help somebody. I have been where students are going. I want to be able to give them the benefit of that perspective. It hurts me to see somebody mess up in a way that perhaps I could have prevented if I had the opportunity to talk to them. I want to give people here the benefit of my experience: of what I have learned, where I have failed, where I have suffered and where I’ve succeeded.”



Photo Credit: Bob Jose

Associate Dean of Cultural and Residential Life  
Age 52  
From Harlem, NY  
State University of NY at Buffalo  
Economics major

# Global Competitiveness

BY JENNIFER BARRIS AND JASMINE WOODS

Professor William Tita Tita teaches within the College of Business Administration. Tita is known for his expertise in global ethics, education, and entrepreneurship all around the globe. He has worked for the United Nations, sits on the board of many technically innovative companies and is the CEO of the Global Management Center. Recently added to his long list of accomplishments is his recognition as the Northeastern University 2009 Excellence in Social Justice Faculty Award.

Professor Tita says “a student is ‘globally competitive’ when they are global in scope, mindset and have developed a core competency that is complex.”

Have you ever thought about whether or not you are getting a “global competitive” advantage here at Northeastern University? “Global competitiveness” is a phrase that changes with time, technology, innovation and globalization. Thomas Friedman, a nationally recognized author, repetitive Pulitzer Prize winner, and a former chief White House correspondent has much to say on the topic of “globalization”. He too agrees that when technology advances, so does each individual’s access to knowledge. We no longer live in a world where success is limited to your nation’s economic status. Friedman says “only 30 years ago, if you had a choice of being born a ‘B’ student in Boston or a genius in Bangalore or Beijing, you probably would have chosen Boston because a genius in Beijing or Bangalore could not really take advantage of his or her talent. They could not plug and play globally. Not anymore.”

Now what does all of that mean? This strongly impacts the Northeastern community. Northeastern University wants the reputation of an entrepreneurial pioneer and a place where students search for answers instead of

taking what they hear as truths. Northeastern University is filled with many opportunities to expand one’s global mindset. Among these are the programs like international co-op, study abroad, dialogues of civilization and various cultural clubs. Many students view these programs as leisure activities rather than methods to expand their global understanding. The activities benefit the students in both business and social avenues. By seeing these opportunities as more than their face values, students acquire an advanced perception of the changing world around us.

Our generation has always known America to be the world power. We have not experienced the times when our country was less than or equal to other nations. This contributes to the conceptual conflict between the faculty and students here at Northeastern.

Professor Tita states that “global competitiveness has to do with 1) the scope: an expansive scope is what makes people ‘globally competitive’, 2) the mindset: mindsets range from ethnocentric to multi-domestic and 3) the attitude or core competency: this is a combination of skills, experience and the ability to perform.” However Troy Venechanos, a senior French major, believes that “‘global competitiveness’ is our ability as American students to compete beyond city and state borders onto the international playing field and to compete with peers: people who studied what I did and did what I did in a completely different place.”

While Tita views “global competitiveness” as a concept that encompasses geographical, ideological, and technological aspects, Venechanos is only looking at the geographical element. Troy goes on to say “Northeastern gave me the phonetic language skills to get by in a foreign work place and the chance to co-op in a place like the United Nations

where these skills were actually pertinent, more so than my peers at Boston University.” Troy, along with the majority of our generation, is limiting his idea of “global competitiveness” as a skill set rather than its wholistic meaning of a skill set, mindset, and innovativeness. He has failed to realize that he is not only competing with students in Boston, or in America for that matter, but he is also competing with the students around the world. The fallacy lies not only in the fact that we are overlooking other nations, but that these other nations are motivated by their historical inferiority to world dominators.

Students in other nations such as, India, China and Japan, constantly think about becoming the next global leader. Their drive is surpassing students of the United States due to the historical economic lows of their societies.

The United States and our new-found competing nations represent the analogy of the tortoise and the hare. The hare became so used to being ahead of the tortoise that it took its lead for granted. It stopped, took a rest and failed to realize the tortoise’s slow and steady approach. As the famous story goes, the tortoise wins the race, but it’s not too late for America to wake up and defend its dominance in this competition.



## How well do you feel Northeastern is preparing you for the global playing field?



Matthew Atchue  
English Major  
2011

"I definitely think Northeastern is preparing us well. I think with anything, it's up to the quality of the education, but it's also about how much effort you put into it. It's up to you as a student to take opportunities that Northeastern gives to reach your potential."



Cai Gao  
Finance Major  
2011

"I notice that the curriculum here at Northeastern is very well structured so students can have the knowledge to compete. The co-op program definitely gives that real world, hands-on experience for competition with people in other countries. I would like Northeastern to become more of a research based school because that sparks innovation and ideas."



Jonathan Lawrence  
Accounting and Finance Major  
2009

"I think NU is preparing us through career services and co-op. However, I think we fall short when it comes to competing globally because unless you're actually looking for those services, you can't find them. The co-op program does help because we have programs in, I think, 53 countries, so we already have our foot in the door."

# Onyx Kitchen

## A NEW KIND OF BREAKFAST

Tired of the same “grab and go” breakfast? We all have our days when Pop Tarts or cold pizza have to suffice, but here at Onyx, we’re ready to liven things up. Here are some enjoyable breakfast recipes that are sure to have you full and satisfied. Enjoy!

## SUBMIT A RECIPE!

Just as much as we love to share our recipes with you, we’d like to read yours and try them too. Feel free to submit your personal creations or family recipes to us at [onyxsubmission@gmail.com](mailto:onyxsubmission@gmail.com).

### French Toast with Sweet Cream cheese topping

#### Ingredients:

Bread (1 loaf)  
Milk (2 cups)  
Eggs (3)  
Cinnamon (2 tbsp.)  
Nutmeg (2 tbsp.)  
Butter (4 tbsp.)  
Cream cheese (1 package at room temperature)  
Powdered Sugar (¼ cup)  
Lemon Juice (4 tbsp.)

#### Directions:

Beat eggs, milk, cinnamon, and nutmeg together in a bowl that is big enough to fit a slice of bread. Soak each piece of bread in the egg mixture. Melt butter in a skillet that is set on MEDIUM heat. Once the skillet is hot, put the soaked bread in the skillet. Brown until the French toast is golden brown on both sides.

#### Directions (Sweet Cream cheese topping):

Mix softened cream cheese, lemon juice and powdered sugar together in a small bowl. Place the mixture in the refrigerator for 2-3 hours before serving.

BY JENNIFER BARRIS



This french toast recipe is delicious with or without the sweet cream cheese topping!



## Shrimp & Grits

### Ingredients:

Grits ( $\frac{3}{4}$  – 1 cup)  
5 – 8 shrimp (cleaned & deveined)  
Shrimp stock (1  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups)  
Green onions (2)

### Directions:

Heat a small saucepan to MEDIUM-HIGH heat. Add shrimp stock and grits and stir to avoid sticking. Bring contents to a boil and stir occasionally. Cook for 10 minutes or until grits have thickened to a consistency that is a little bit thicker than oatmeal. Add clean shrimp and stir until all the shrimp have turned completely pink. Salt and pepper to taste. Chop the green onions and add them to the top.

BY JENNIFER BARRIS

## Easy Breakfast Muffins

### Ingredients:

(Makes 12)  
1 cup milk  
1 egg  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup vegetable oil  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup white sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dried cranberries (or blueberries, or chocolate chips)

### Directions:

If you are not using liners, grease the muffin tin. Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees. In mixing bowl, combine milk, egg, and oil. Mix together well. Add flour, baking powder, and sugar to mixing bowl. Stir in gently. Fold in dried cranberries (or blueberries, or chocolate chips). Fill muffin cups  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Place in oven and bake for 25-30 minutes. Check before taking them out, color should be light brown.

BY MIRIAM LAUFER

## Crispy Parmesan Bacon

### Ingredients:

Bacon (1 pack)  
Parmesan cheese

### Directions:

Heat skillet to MEDIUM- HIGH heat. Once the skillet is hot, place about 4 -5 strips of bacon in at a time to avoid over-crowding the pan. Cook until both sides are crispy. Place cooked bacon on 2 sheets of paper towel to drain the grease. As soon as the bacon is on the paper towel, sprinkle parmesan cheese on top so that cheese will stick to the hot bacon.

BY JENNIFER BARRIS

## South of the Border Fried Eggs

### Ingredients:

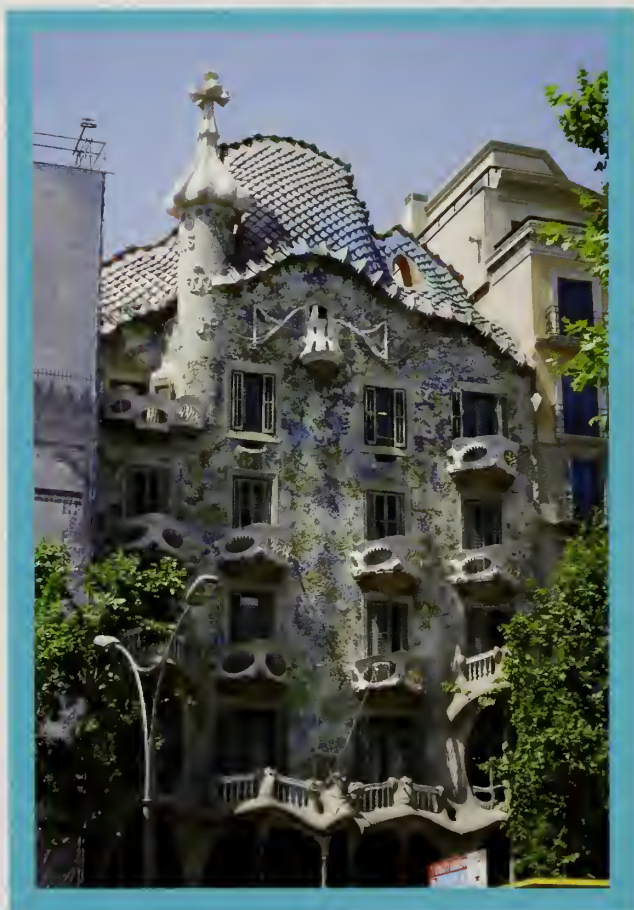
Eggs (4)  
Olive oil ( $\frac{1}{4}$  cup)  
Salsa (1 cup)  
Ripe avocado (1)  
Cheddar Cheese (1 cup)

### Directions:

Heat skillet to MEDIUM heat. Add oil to pan and let it heat through. Once the oil is hot, crack eggs directly into the pan. Cook to your preference. Skin and cube avocado. Place eggs on the plate and add salsa, avocado, and cheese to the top.

BY JENNIFER BARRIS

# Out & About





# A Glimpse of Spain



## Photo Captions:

Page 12 (top):  
Hanging houses in Cuenca, Spain from a bridge that goes across the town.

Page 12 (bottom left):  
Casa Batlló in Barcelona, Spain, designed by the famous Antonio Gaudi.

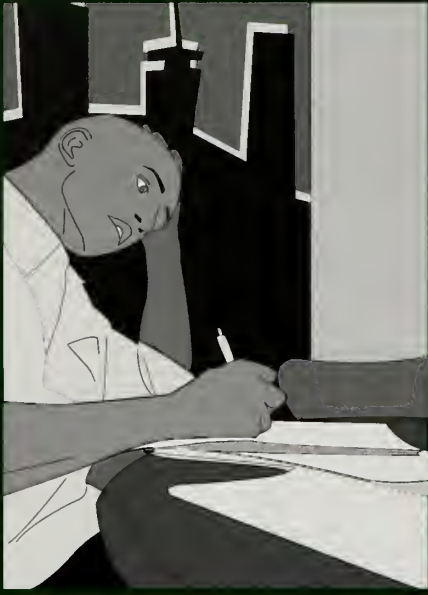
Page 12 (bottom right):  
Sagrada Familia Church in Barcelona, Spain, under construction for almost 200 years and still not finished.

Page 13 (top):  
Beautifully lit building in downtown Madrid, Spain.

Page 13 (bottom):  
Spanish ladies walking through the Plaza Mayor of Madrid, Spain.



# Mr. & Ms. Nubian



**Get at me.**

Contact me at [mr.nubian@gmail.com](mailto:mr.nubian@gmail.com)

**Holla at ya girl.**

Send me an e-mail at [ms.nubian@gmail.com](mailto:ms.nubian@gmail.com)



Nubian images created by Herculano Fernandes

## Over Him... Not

Hey Mr. Nubian! I need your help.... My boyfriend broke up with me because he said he wasn't ready for a commitment. After we broke up I avoided him like the plague and I saw him two weeks ago, and all those feelings came back. He makes me feel like I am the most special girl in the world, and my heart skips a beat whenever I am near him. But when we aren't around each other he is back to his stoic, emotionless self. I just don't know what the problem is. We've gotten over so many hurdles in our relationship. He's two years out of college, so he should be a tad bit more mature. I'm not asking for marriage...I JUST WANT MY MAN BACK!!

Signed,  
I need my Boo back!

What's going on girl?  
Wow! I see y'all waste NO time giving me the real drama...I haven't even been to infocommons yet!  
This issue needs to be addressed head on. He is not going to approach you, because he is comfortable with the situa-

tion. Sit him aside and try to pull away from the emotionless behavior try to get him to come outside of himself and be real.

You need to get him to reveal what the issues are and what you two can do TOGETHER to make what you have work. He needs to step up to the plate and give you back what you are giving him. You don't deserve to be treated like a hard rock when you really are a gem. Make sure that you tell him that you don't want to marriage, you just want you two to be together.

Peace and Blessings,  
Mr. Nubian

---

## Blast From the Past

Dear Ms. Nubian,  
I've been dating a great guy for four months now. I thought things were going great, but I recently found out from a mutual friend of ours that he told his ex-girlfriend that he wants to get back together with her. I'm really hurt because I had no idea that he felt this way, but I still care about him. What should I do?

Signed,  
In a Dilemna

Dear In a Dilemna,  
I don't know if this guy is so great if he's considering getting back together with his ex behind your back.  
He probably wanted to see how his ex felt first – if she wanted him back, they would get back together, but if she didn't, he'd stay with you. But that's a selfish thing to do, and probably indicates that A) he's not over her, or B) he doesn't know what he wants.  
I would talk to him about it, definitely, to get his side of the story. But it's probably best to let the relationship go. I know you care about him, but if you stay with him knowing that you're only second best, you'll end up getting hurt. You need to find someone who makes you a priority, not an option.

Good Luck!  
Ms. Nubian



# TRANSFER STUDENT

## TRAVELS

BY KEIR BRISTOL

It isn't uncommon for students to transfer after attending a four-year institution for the first time. For example, after a disappointing first year at Skidmore College in upstate New York, senior Sociology student Sarah Stokey decided to transfer to another school, for a "fresh beginning and a new environment."

"I wasn't ready, and that really tripped me up when I was there," says Stokey. Like Stokey, Journalism student Ryan Payne was disappointed with his first year at Northeastern, and began to question why he came here in the first place. "My mom really fell in love with Northeastern... I was wondering if I really went to Northeastern because of her or because of me. And the only way I'd ever find out is if I go to the school I've been looking at for the past two years."

38 percent of students attending a four year institution attended more than one institution while pursuing a college degree, according to a Postsecondary Education Descriptive Analysis Report, "The Road Less Traveled? – Students Who Enroll in Multiple Institutions" from the National Center of Educational Statistics (NCES).

Some of the most common reasons for students to transfer to another four-year institution are "intellectual growth, teacher ability, institutional prestige, and social life," according to another report by the NCES, "Transfer Behavior Among Beginning Postsecondary Students: 1989-94." Other reasons, according to "The Road Less Traveled? – Students Who Enroll in Multiple Institutions" include more convenient

scheduling and/or location, smaller class sizes, to cut down on college costs, or to participate in a program that is unavailable at the institution they are currently attending.

Northeastern is no exception. Many students are attracted to Northeastern because of the location and co-op program, but there are still circumstances that cause students to leave.

When Payne applied to Northeastern University, he was impressed by the co-op program, and was attracted to it because it was far from his home in Washington D.C. But during his first year here, he found himself questioning his decision. Payne took a leave of absence from Northeastern to try a HCBU (historically black college or university). It was his move to Morehouse in At-

# TRANSFER STUDENT TRAVELS

lanta, Ga. that helped him find himself. "There were black professors, black students... people of your own culture. One hundred percent of the students wanted to do the same thing, to uplift the culture," says Payne. "It is [Morehouse] about 2,500 boys. All the boys were very competitive with each other, all in a way to try and see who can get this internship, who is going to do this for the school, who is going to do this community service."

Despite Payne's positive experience at Morehouse, he is returning to Northeastern this fall. Morehouse did not offer a degree in journalism, so he had cross-registered with Clark-Atlanta to study what he wanted. But the bad economy led to teachers being cut from the payroll, and Morehouse decided that their students could no longer cross-register to fulfill their majors.

"I was torn between whether I should be an English student with a focus in journalism, or go back to Northeastern where I was a full journalism student," says Payne, who chose the latter. "When I moved to Atlanta, it helped me become more independent and more able to stick to my own set of rules. So I don't regret anything at all. I'm excited to come back and combine the old and the new lifestyle."

Stokey was originally attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, where her major was undeclared. Stokey is now a Sociology major at Northeastern, due to graduate this December.

"I was never 100 percent sure I would transfer, but I applied anyway. I applied to schools at random in Boston, but... I belonged at Northeastern," says Stokey. Ian Martin, a junior at Northeastern,

originally came from Springfield Technical Community College, where he studied liberal arts. Like Stokey, he was attracted to the city.

"I knew I wanted to go to school in Boston. I'm in love with the city, so I was excited to go to school here," says Martin. "When I sat down and looked at the programs, I saw all of the teachers were on the Globe and stuff like that. The idea of the teachers, and the co-op was really appealing to me."

Martin is slated to graduate in May 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in journalism.

Jelica Baker, who was originally a Journalism major at Northeastern University, transferred to the University of San Francisco to be closer to her home, family and friends.

"I always wanted to live on the east coast; I liked Northeastern when I was there. I thought it was a great school. I liked the urban feeling of it. But I really missed home... and I wanted to change my major to marketing, but I had to take the business major to get into marketing," says Baker. "I think going to the University in San Francisco was a good decision for me... but at the same time, I miss a lot of the people I left. I miss Northeastern; Northeastern has something special to it."

Baker is now a double major in English Literature and Media Studies and is slated to graduate in December of 2010. She would have graduated in 2011 if she had stayed at Northeastern, due to the six-month co-op she planned to take.

"I was only going to do one semester of co-op," says Baker. "While college is supposed to be a great experience, I wanted to graduate ASAP to fit my goals for my life."

The economy is also taking a toll on many Northeastern students. Whitney Brimat, another former Journalism major at Northeastern, left the school just one semester in when her financial aid wasn't enough to cover her tuition fees. But if she had her choice, she says she would have stayed.

"I think it's a combination of both (location and co-op) being that it's in one of the United States' largest cities, it's bound to get noticed, and the co-op sets it apart," says Brimat, who transferred to Manhattanville for her spring semester. "It's a great way to get working experience... to be able to work and establish connections with companies that correspond or correlate to your field of study. It's almost like insurance of having a job when you graduate."

Rachel H., a former Northeastern student majoring in International Affairs and Human Services, had the same problem.

"I had basically as much scholarship as I could get, and it still wasn't enough," she says. "It was a total money thing. If I could have stayed I probably would have."

"The Road Less Traveled? – Students Who Enroll in Multiple Institutions" goes on to say, "Over the course of the undergraduate education of 1999–2000 college graduates (first-time bachelor's degree recipients), a majority (59 percent) had attended more than one institution." But the kids who transfer when they are unhappy at one school are more than statistics. They are taking the steps to better their situation.

"I'm really happy I transferred," says Stokey. "If a person is unhappy they should take the step to transfer and see where it takes you."



# SOULspeech

Submit to SoulSpeech  
onyxsubmission@gmail.com

## Spiritual *BY JENNIFER BARRIS*



## Selfish Love

Endless was the journey to find a reason why  
She failed to let go, after numerous tries.  
Rain on the sunniest days as she struggled for an answer.  
His swag, his intellect, or the way he romanced her?  
Unlike Sudoku, this puzzle had no clear solution.  
Angered by the lack of a satisfying conclusion,  
She questioned her own character, blew it out of proportion.  
Making it more than what it was, she'd created a distortion.  
It was about her, no doubt, but not in the way she perceived.  
Rather than being the victim, she was the one doing the deed.  
It took evaluation, down to her very core  
To see she'd fallen for herself and not much more.  
Every aspect of him she missed most affectionately,  
Were the ones that were merely a reflection of she.  
So, yes, she'd fallen, quite hard in fact.  
But the qualities she loved, were the ones he mirrored back.

*BY JASMINE WOODS*

## The Basement of Society

There's a room for rent in the basement of society.  
Thank you for coming in to see.  
When you live under our roof you live by our rules.  
But, to appease you we'll throw in  
40 acres and a mule.  
Please understand that there isn't enough room for change here  
Please understand that your contract will stand for at least 200 years.  
If you want this room you'll have to work hard,  
But keep in mind that  
We'll always be in charge.  
We don't accept cash, we don't accept checks  
You'll pay your rent in tears, blood, and sweat.  
Welcome to the household,  
The years won't go by quick  
But if you obey us  
Maybe we can move you up to the attic.

*BY ANULI AKANEGBU*

## Songs About Him

Hiphop is his mother, and soul is her lover.  
But to him, their love can't be compared to any other.  
Their beats fuel his heart, lyrics fill his mouth  
And the more I hear the more I'd love to learn all about...  
Who he is and where he's been and where his lyrics will choose to take him.  
I wish I could be a melody that gets stuck in his brain, so he'd walk around  
the city only whistling my name.

*BY ANONYMOUS*

## I Used to be Her

So, I promptly walk to the proctor's desk after being startled by the sound of the RA pager, notifying me of a lockout. No big. It happens. In addition to a resident without a card, I see a girl. She appears to be waiting for someone. I don't remember seeing her here before, so somebody's probably coming to sign her in. Yep. Here he comes now, nonchalantly. Wow, look at her though. I think she wants to "play it cool." She doesn't want him to know how happy she is to see him. Too late sweetie. Her eyes are sparkling. She's blown away, despite the fact that he's wearing pj's and probably didn't care much about how he looked when he left his room to sign her in. She, however, was getting ready at least 30 minutes ago waiting for the "come on over" text.

So smoothly, he walks pass her to get a drink from the vending machine without saying a word to her. She forces herself not to smile, but it's so clear that she wants to. "Umm.... hey," she says, wishing he would have greeted her with the same energy that she is bottling inside right now. She wants to know exactly what's going through his mind right now, exactly what he thinks of her. Is he just as happy to see her, but putting up a good front? Or, is he really not that enthused about her visit? She doesn't know, and soon it won't matter because she'll be in his dorm room, in his bed, doing whatever they do. She'll be there, happy, excited, curious and full of thoughts of which she'll be hesitant to speak. Hoping for the best, she'll continue this unofficial relationship until she realizes it's pointless. Her desires are different from his, and that's okay. It may take her a while to grasp that, but she will. And when she does, she'll be so much stronger. She'll be thankful for her progress and even surprised by how mature she's become.

It's all a matter of time, and standing here at this proctor's desk viewing this situation, I feel relieved. I know now just how much I have grown. If I go up to her right now and tell her all these things, she will not want to hear it. She'll think I'm in her business, and the next time she hears a line like Leona Lewis' "I don't care what they say" or "they don't know the meaning of what we have," she'll think back to me and how I gave her "unnecessary" advice. She's just starting. She's still holding on to something that may or may not exist. Who knows? Maybe it'll work. I'm not predicting anything, but I've seen this. I've lived this. So, I smile at her and him as they leave to go to his room for a night of hopeful passion for her and meaningless fun for him. This feeling of reflection is quite astounding. I used to be her.

*BY JASMINE WOODS*





The Nile River in Egypt  
Photo by Asha Cesar



# ONYX

The ONYX Informer exists to be a voice for the people of the African Diaspora and the greater Boston community in which we reside. The ONYX embraces the unity and the values of diversity in both content of our publication and in the membership of our organization.